



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** November 16, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #30: November 6, 2005 – November 12, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM), Heather Stiles, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on November 11. Light precipitation occurred toward the end of the subject week. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

### **OVERHEAD:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is scheduled to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion controls remain in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas, except for near the Pole #9 area. The burrows at this location have been marked for avoidance.

The CPUC EM observed that the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work is subcontracted as well.

During the subject week, crews backfilled over the conduit installation from Stations 36+40 to 38+90. Backfill has not been conducted through the Amtrak parking lot at the corner of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue, and the area remains covered with steel plates.

During the previous weeks, trenching was initiated at three different areas. However, unstable materials were encountered that were not conducive to providing a stable trench for conduit. Trenching was halted at these locations until a method to stabilize the bank is determined. The crews moved onto other areas.

Previously, groundwater was encountered at approximate Stations 36+40 to 38+10. A Baker tank was delivered to the site into which the groundwater was pumped. Samples were collected for testing and preliminary results showed elevated organic diesel at 160 ppb; 50 ppb is the established limit. The Baker tank and water remain on-site. Evergreen has been contracted for the water disposal activities and will dispose of the contaminated groundwater at a sanitary water facility.

North of Midas Boulevard, crews excavated and installed Vault 4 (see Figure 1). Conduit tie-ins and backfill with a slurry mix are planned for next week.

Crews potholed for a waterline and telephone line near Station 60+67. The lines were both identified.

In preparation for the upcoming bore, weeds were cleared from Station 0+00 to the staging area near the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. Topsoil from Wetland #2 will be salvaged prior to the commencement of the bore. The bore crew began to mobilize to the site on November 12. Boring operations should commence early next week.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. Per the PG&E EI, during the subject week, no excavation work occurred in culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with steel plates or chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were inspected and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas including seasonal drainages.

During the subject week, crews installed straw wattles along the right-of-way where spoils material is being stockpiled.

Weed clearing occurred between the right-of-way and at the Kinder-Morgan Yard.

The CPUC EM observed that the underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
 (Updated 11-16-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 11-16-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 11-16-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

**UPCOMING ITEMS:**

The HDD mobilized to the site and boring operations should commence the week of November 15. In addition to the regular environmental training, the PG&E EI has planned a tailgate prior to boring operations to discuss the bore plans, the Frac-out Contingency Plan, and all applicable mitigation measure requirements, including schedule.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Vault 4 installation, November 3, 2005.